

Message Text

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FOR EAGLEBURGER

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SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT DOUGLAS B. FEAVER PAGE 2 BY-LINER
WASHINGTON POST, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, HEADED "PSYCHIATRIC
DATA AIDED OFFICIALS IN HANDLING HIJACKERS."

2. WHEN L. DOUGLAS HECK WALKED INTO THE 10TH FLOOR HIJACK
COMMAND CENTER AT THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
FRIDAY NIGHT, HE DIDN'T KNOW HOW MANY PEOPLE HAD HIJACKED
THE TWA FLIGHT FROM NEW YORK TO CHICAGO, WHO THEY WERE, WHAT
THEY WANTED OR HOW THE GOVERNMENT WAS GOING TO HANDLE IT.

3. HECK, DIRECTOR OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S OFFICES TO
COMBAT TERRORISM, AND ONE OF THE PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR
FINDING THE ANSWERS, SAID YESTERDAY HE ASKED HIMSELF, "TO
WHAT DEGREE WILL THE HIJACKERS LISTEN TO REASON? TO WHAT
DEGREE WILL THEY RESPECT FORCE?"

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4. BY THE TIME IT WAS OVER IN PARIS 30 HOURS LATER, ALL 92

HOSTAGES WERE FREED UNHARMED, THE FIVE CROATIAN WHO ALLEGEDLY COMMANDEERED THE PLANE WERE CAPTURED AND ONE NEW YORK CITY POLICEMAN HAD BEEN KILLED BY A BOMB.

5. U.S. OFFICIALS YESTERDAY WERE STILL INVESTIGATING THE HIJACKING AS THE FOUR CROATIAN NATIONALISTS AND THE AMERICAN WIFE OF ONE OF THEM WERE ARRAIGNED IN NEW YORK CITY ON FEDERAL AIR PIRACY CHARGES AND HELD ON \$1 MILLION BOND EACH.

6. FEDERAL OFFICIALS SAID THEY WERE NOW CONVINCED THAT THE HIJACKERS HAD CARRIED NO WEAPONS ON TO THE AIRPLANE AND THROUGH TWA'S SECURITY AT LAGUARDIA AIRPORT IN NEW YORK CITY.

7. THE DEVICE THEY USED TO TAKE OVER THE PLANE, A PHONY BOMB, WAS APPARENTLY PUT TOGETHER ON THE PLANE AFTER THE FLIGHT TOOK OFF, SEVERAL FEDERAL OFFICIALS SAID. "NONE OF THE THINGS THEY CARRIED WAS A PROHIBITED ITEM," AN FAA SPOKESMAN SAID.

8. THE SPOKESMAN ALSO SAID THAT A PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION SHOWED THAT THE HIJACKERS HAD BEEN "CASING" THE SECURITY SYSTEM AT LAGUARDIA FOR AT LEAST FOUR MONTHS BEFORE THE TAKEOVER, AND HAD DECIDED THEY COULD NOT SMUGGLE IN A REAL WEAPON.

9. "WE CONTINUE TO HAVE A HIGH CONFIDENCE LEVEL IN OUR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM," SAID RICHARD LALLY, DIRECTOR OF THE FAA'S CIVIL AVIATION SECURITY SERVICE. THERE WERE NO REPORTS AROUND THE COUNTRY OF BEEFED-UP AIRPORT SECURITY YESTERDAY.

10. NONETHELESS, "SECURITY PEOPLE ARE JUST PATHOLOGICALLY MORE AWARE WHEN SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPENS," SAID JAMES MURPHY, DIRECTOR OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORT SERVICE, WHICH RUNS WASHINGTON NATIONAL AND DULLES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS. "BUT THE SYSTEM WORKS WELL. IT IS NOT UNCOMMON FOR US TO FIND, AND STOP, SOMEBODY WITH A REVOLVER EITHER ON HIS PERSON OR IN CARRY-ON BAGGAGE." ALTHOUGH THE FAA INSPECTS AND WRITES VIOLATIONS ON SECURITY SYSTEMS AT AIRPORTS, THE OPERATION OF THE X-RAY MACHINES AND METAL UNCLASSIFIED

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DETECTORS IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL AIRLINES.

11. LALLY HIMSELF STAYED AT THE FAA COMMAND CENTER THROUGHOUT THE ORDEAL. THE TASK FORCE THERE INCLUDED, AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER, A VARIETY OF FAA TECHNICAL EXPERTS, STATE DEPARTMENT INTELLIGENCE AND LOGISTICAL OFFICIALS, TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY WILLIAM T. COLEMAN JR., FAA CHIEF JOHN MCLUCAS, AND PSYCHIATRISTS AND PSYCHOLOGISTS FOR BOTH THE

FAA AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

12. THE AVAILABILITY OF A PSYCHIATRIC ASSESSMENT WAS "INVALUABLE," HECK SAID. EVEN THOUGH THE PRECISE IDENTITIES OF THE HIJACKERS WERE NOT KNOWN AT FIRST, ENOUGH WAS KNOWN TO OFFER ASSESSMENTS ON THE CREDIBILITY OF THE THREAT TO THE HOSTAGES.

13. FAA MEDICAL SPECIALISTS ALSO CONTINUALLY REASSESSED THE ENDURANCE OF THE FLIGHT CREW UNDER STRESS AND ADVISED OFFICIALS.

14. TWA PILOT DICK CAREY, THROUGH THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL NETWORK, RELAYED THE INFORMATION THAT A BOMB, AND INSTRUCTIONS, COULD BE FOUND IN A LOCKER IN GRAND CENTRAL STATION IN NEW YORK.

15. WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS AND DEMANDS IN THE LOCKER TOLD OFFICIALS THAT THE GROUP REPRESENTED THE TINY EXILE MOVEMENT THAT WANTS A SEPARATE CROATIAN STATE IN YUGOSLAVIA.

16. THE BOMB WAS THERE TOO. NEW YORK CITY BOMB SQUAD OFFICIALS REMOVED IT FROM THE AREA, BUT IT EXPLODED LATER AS THEY ATTEMPTED TO DEACTIVATE IT, AND OFFICER BRIAN J. MURRAY WAS KILLED.

17. "AT FIRST WE THOUGHT MAYBE THIS (HIJACKING) WAS JUST FOR PUBLICITY," SAID ONE OFFICIAL YESTERDAY. BUT "WHEN THE BOMB WENT OFF, THE HIJACKERS HAD INSTANT CREDIBILITY."

18. CROATIAN SEPARATISM HAS A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE, AND FROM THE MOMENT OF THE EXPLOSION THERE WAS INCREASING CONCERN FOR THE LIVES OF THE PASSENGERS. AT THE SAME TIME, HECK SAID, UNCLASSIFIED

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"OUR POLICY IS TO MAKE NO CONCESSIONS TO HIJACKERS."

19. NONETHELESS, SOME OF THE HIJACKERS' DEMANDS WERE MET: SEVERAL AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS, INCLUDING THE WASHINGTON POST, PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS AS THE HIJACKERS REQUESTED. THAT MATTER WAS HANDLED BY THE FBI.

20. AND TWA DROPPED LEAFLETS OVER LONDON AND PARIS EXPLAINING THE SEPARATIST POSITION. IN PARIS, THE LEAFLETS WERE DROPPED FROM A BOEING 707, A GIANT FOUR-ENGINE TRANSPORT FLYING AT LOW ALTITUDE. TWA OFFICIALS CONSULTED WITH BOEING ON THE BEST WAY TO USE THE LARGE PLANE FOR THAT PURPOSE.

21. WHILE DETAILS LIKE THAT WERE BEING SOLVED, THE STATE

DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WERE ALSO ATTEMPTING TO BUY TIME, A TACTIC THAT PSYCHIATRISTS ARE RECOMMENDING MORE AND MORE IN SIMILAR HOSTAGE SITUATIONS, SUCH AS PRISON TAKEOVERS. FATIGUE SETS IN ON CAPTORS, IT IS FELT, TO THE BENEFIT OF HOSTAGES.

22. BUT THE FINAL DECISION, THAT THE PLANE WOULD GO NO FURTHER, WAS MADE BY THE FRENCH. AFTER THE 727 LANDED IN PARIS, SHARPSHOOTERS SHOT OUT THE TIRES. THEN THE FRENCH TOLD U.S. OFFICIALS THEY HAD DONE SO. IT WAS A MOMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CONCERN FOR THE HOSTAGES, SEVERAL U.S. OFFICIALS SAID YESTERDAY.

23. "WE HAD ALWAYS FELT," TWA'S JOHN CORRIS SAID, "THAT IF WE MET THEIR DEMANDS FOR LEAFLETING AND GETTING THEM TO EUROPE, THEY WOULD RELEASE THE HOSTAGES. AND IT WORKED."

24. THE HIJACKERS WERE RETURNED TO NEW YORK ON A FRENCH GOVERNMENT PLANE SUNDAY. (END TEXT.) ROBINSON

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